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Friends For Life

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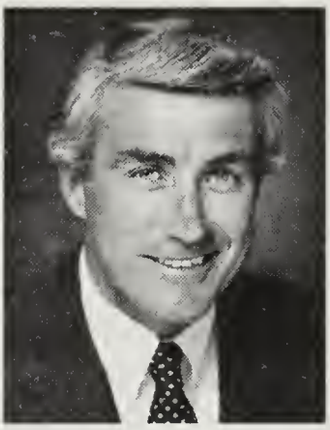
Facts for Teens about Drinking and Driving

Jim Edgar • Secretary of State



A Message For Teens

Your teenage years are a special time of happy memories and close friendships – friendships that can last a lifetime. Too often, however, special events such as proms and graduations become tragedies when teens are killed or injured in drunk driving accidents.

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for persons under age 25. Alcohol is a factor in more than half of all vehicle crashes. In Illinois, drivers under age 21 account for 10 percent of all licensed drivers, but are responsible for 19 percent of all fatal crashes.

However, from 1986 to 1987, the number of persons under age 20 who were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs (DUI) dropped 18 percent. People your age are making the decision not to drink and drive.

As a teenager, you are making important decisions about how you want to live your life. The information in this brochure will help you and your friends make responsible decisions about using alcohol and driving. It can help you be friends for life.

Jim Edgar

Jim Edgar
Secretary of State

Ever been impressed by someone in handcuffs?

Following a DUI arrest, you will be handcuffed and taken to jail. An alcohol-related offense will be added to your driving record permanently. How will you explain that to your parents — and your friends?

Illinois has adopted special DUI laws for drivers under age 21. The penalties are tough and they will change your life for years:

FIRST UNDER AGE 21 DUI CONVICTION

- Loss of full driving privileges for a minimum of two years.

SECOND UNDER AGE 21 DUI CONVICTION

- Loss of full driving privileges for a minimum of three years or until reaching age 21, whichever is longer.
- Mandatory 48 hours in jail or 10 days' community service.
- Possible imprisonment for up to one year.
- Maximum $1,000 fine.

THIRD UNDER AGE 21 DUI CONVICTION

Class 4 Felony

- Loss of full driving privileges for a minimum of six years.
- Possible imprisonment for one to three years.
- Maximum $10,000 fine.

FELONY DUI (following a crash resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disfigurement)

Class 4 Felony

- Loss of full driving privileges for a minimum of one year.
- Possible imprisonment for one to three years.
- Maximum fine of $10,000.

ILLEGAL TRANSPORTATION OF AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

- Maximum fine of $500.
- Point-assigned violation entered on driving record.
- Drivers license suspension for a second conviction in a 12-month period.

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

- A chemical test indicating an alcohol concentration (BAC) of .10 or greater results in a mandatory three-month drivers license suspension.
- Refusal to submit to a chemical test(s) results in a six-month license suspension.
- For subsequent offenses, refusal to submit to a chemical test(s), or test results indicating a BAC of .10 or greater, results in a mandatory 12-month drivers license suspension.

Without looking, what's the birthdate on that drivers license in your hand?

The penalties for using a fake Illinois drivers license or ID are also serious:

- Minimum one year loss of full driving privileges for attempting to fraudulently obtain an Illinois drivers license or ID.
- Two to five years in prison and a maximum $10,000 fine for fraudulently obtaining an Illinois drivers license.
- A maximum of 30 days in jail and up to a $500 fine for fraudulently obtaining an Illinois ID card.
- One to three years in prison and up to a $10,000 fine for knowingly allowing another person to use your identification documents to apply for a drivers license or ID card.

Shooting a basket or driving a car, you're not in control if you've been drinking.

After only one drink, alcohol:

- reduces coordination.
- distorts depth perception.
- affects your judgment.
- alters your moods and emotions.

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Be a friend for life.

Encourage your friends to make responsible decisions about alcohol use and driving. There are many ways in which teens may become involved in the battle against drunk drivers.

Student support groups such as Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD), In Touch and Snowball promote safe driving habits and alternatives to drug and alcohol use. The Secretary of State's office will provide information and help you establish a student group.

The Responsible Safety Voice to Peers (RSVP) program, sponsored by the Secretary of State's office, promotes traffic safety during prom and graduation time. It complements the Project Graduation activities held by many schools.

Teens concerned about DUI crashes and fatalities may also become involved by:

- planning alcohol-free activities.
- developing a hotline that provides safe rides home after special events.
- preventing your friends from driving if they have been drinking alcohol.

For more information, call:

(217) 785-1444
or
(312) 917-3229

Printed by Authority of the
State of Illinois
April 1988 – 100M – GA-1427